

Aquatic Center and Referendum

The City of Evansville is asking the public their preference on the construction of a new aquatic center. There are three options on the ballot. I want to take a moment to let you know what your selection may mean, not what you should select. It is my job to provide public information regarding the referendum and what the outcomes may mean. The following is an explanation of the three options on the November referendum ballot and the impact of each option

Option 1 will have the current pool remain open while construction of the new pool and two soccer fields occurs on the west half of Westside Park. Upon completion the Lake Leota pool will close down, be demolished and a new splash pad built in its place. The remaining athletic fields at Westside Park will be constructed after the new soccer fields are established. This process will have the least disruption to recreational services and amenity access. This option is more cost effective given the grading, shared facilities and open space for pool designs.

Option 2 will require the current pool to close down for demolition and construction. Westside Park will start construction of three soccer fields on the west end of the park. The City will do its best to get the splash pad operational at Westside Park to substitute some water recreation while the aquatic center is under construction. The park store will also be improved to enhance concession possibilities. Once the soccer fields are established, construction on the remaining baseball/softball fields will begin to reduce program disruption.

Option 3 is a rejection of doing either. This option receiving the majority vote could likely shut down aquatic operations immediately or by the next major infrastructure failure. The City does not believe the current aquatic infrastructure is sustainable. Continued patch work is not an efficient use of available operational funds.

The actual designs shown on our website and in mailers are not the final design. They are conceptual images showing generally where these features will fit, and create an estimated budget. It would be premature of the City to figure final design without knowing first the public's support on spending such large sums of money.

To summarize; those who want the City to spend the money on these recreational improvements should select their preference between Options 1 and 2. Those who do not want the City to spend the money on these recreational improvements should select Option 3 - "Neither". If a majority (50% plus 1) select Option 3, the Common Council would have very clear instruction from the public not to bond and tax for this improvement. If the first two options combined are a majority (50% plus 1) it will tell the Council that the public wants the improvements and accepts the spending. Depending on the difference between Option 1 and Option 2, the Council will determine a budget and location to begin final public input and designs.

More information on tax impact will come in the following weeks.

For more information visit www.ci.evansville.wi.gov , visit us on Facebook, review mailed materials, or call 608-882-2266.